

IN THE DRAWING

Please find enclosed herewith an annotated Fig. 4B which is corrected in red, and a replacement sheet for Fig. 4B incorporating the indicated changes for the Examiner's approval.

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 22-26, Figure 4B, and the specification are amended by this amendment to correct typographic errors and/or to clarify the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added by the amendments.

Claims 1-21 were stated to be allowable over the prior art.

Claims 25-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shiraishi, U.S. Patent No. 6,034,378.

Independent claim 22 has been amended to provide that the second laser beam is coaxial with the first laser beam when a movable optical element included in the second optical system is positioned in a first position in an optical path of the first laser beam. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose, or even suggest this feature. Therefore it is respectfully requested that claim 22 be allowed.

Claims 23-26 depend from claim 22 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as a claim 22 is allowable.

CLOSING

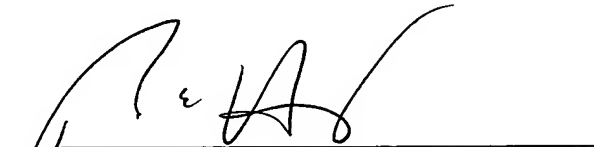
An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

App. Serial No.: 10/615,670

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Annotated Fig. 4B and Replacement Sheet Fig. 4B

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FIG. 4A

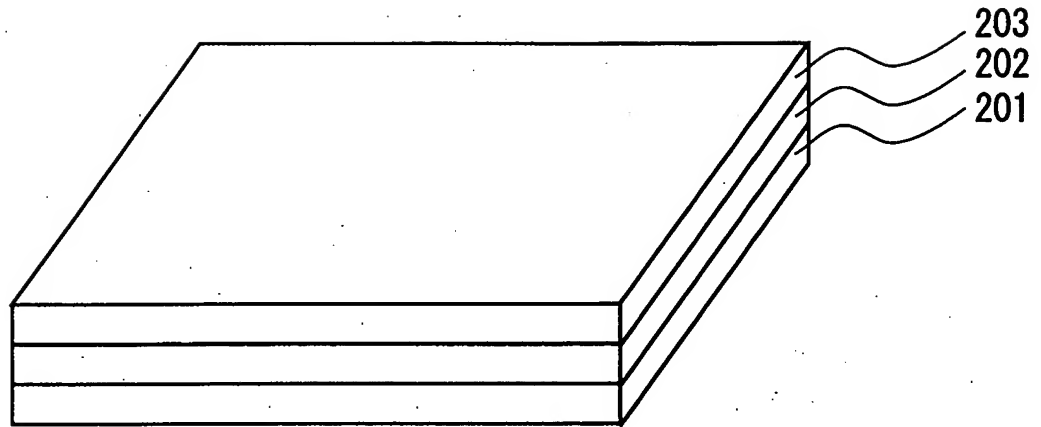


FIG. 4B

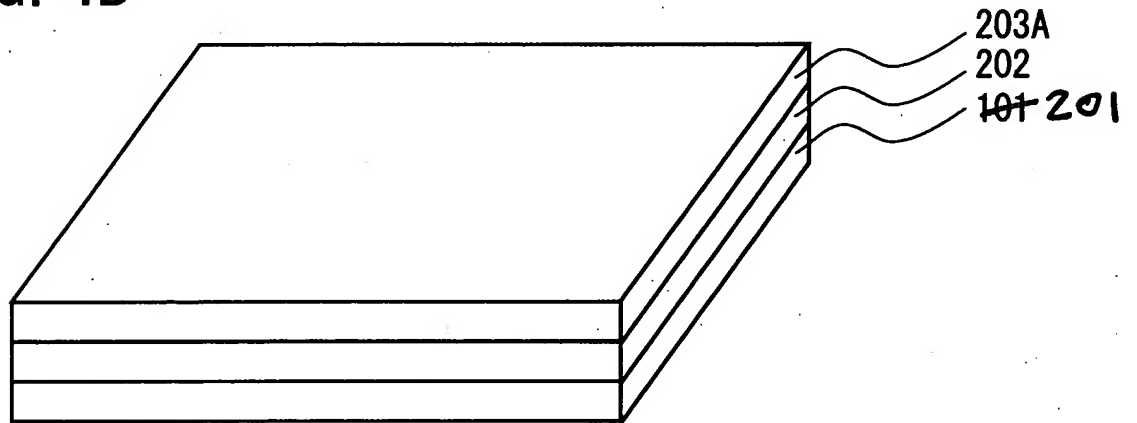


FIG. 4C

